



**SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Cumulative Number Of Confirmed Human Cases (Page 1)
- Antibodies can lead to Bird Flu Treatment (Page 2)
- Guidance to Improve Pandemic Operation Plan (Page 3)
- Japan has already Approved a Pandemic Vaccine (Page 4)
- China will Begin Producing a Human Vaccine Against Bird Flu (Page 5)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Avian Influenza In Birds	2	}
National News	3	
Local and State News	3	
Pandemic/ Avian Flu in the Media	4	
Resources	6	

Avian/Pandemic Flu Newsletter

THE OFFICIAL AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWSLETTER OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Volume III, Issue 5

April 2008

AVIAN INFLUENZA: Current Global Situation Update

Avian Influenza Cases in Humans

Since January 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported human cases of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in more than twelve countries like Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Nigeria.

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza (H5N1)

Cases reported to WHO through April 30, 2008. WHO only reports laboratory-confirmed cases.

- ◆ Total human cases of H5N1 (confirmed) = **382**
- ◆ Total human deaths from H5N1= **241**

http://www.who.int/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2008_04_17/en/index.html

Currently, there are no reported human OR animal cases of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in United States.

Indonesia - April 30, 2008

The Ministry of Health of Indonesia has announced a new case of human infection of H5N1 avian influenza. A 3-year-old male from Wonogiri District, Central Java Province developed symptoms on 14 April, was hospitalized on 21 April and died on 23 April. Investigations into the source of his infection indicate exposure to sick and dead poultry.

Of the 133 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 108 have been fatal.
http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_04_30/en/print.html

Egypt - April 11, 2008

The Ministry of Health and Population has announced three new human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection. The first case is a 2-year-old male from Al-Honsanya, Sharkeia Governorate. He developed symptoms on April 13, was hospitalized on April 14 and is currently in hospital. The case was confirmed as being infected with A(H5N1) by the Central Public Health Laboratories and by Cairo-based US Naval Medical Research



Unit 3 (NAMRU-3). Investigations into the source of his infection indicates a history of contact with sick and dead poultry.



The second human case of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection, is a 30-year-old female from Al-Matarya, Cairo Governorate. She developed symptoms on April 2nd, was hospitalized and died on April 11. The case was confirmed as being infected with A(H5N1) by the Central Public Health Laboratories and by Cairo-based US (NAMRU-3). Investigations into the source of her infection also indicates a history of contact with sick and dead poultry. *(Continue on Page 2)*

Avian Influenza Cases in Humans (Cont.)

The third case is a 19-year-old male from Kafr El-Dawar District, Behera governorate. He developed symptoms on March 30th, was hospitalized on March 31st and died on April 4th. The case was confirmed as being infected with A(H5N1) by the Central Public Health Laboratories and by Cairo-based US (NAMRU-3). Investigations into the source of his infection also indicates a history of contact with sick and dead poultry.

Of the 50 cases confirmed to date in Egypt, 22 have been fatal.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_04_17/en/index.html

Pakistan - April 3, 2008

Two additional H5N1 cases were confirmed by serological testing, thus providing final H5N1 infection test results on a previously reported [family cluster in Peshawar](#).

These tests were conducted by the WHO H5 Reference Laboratory in Cairo, Egypt and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza in Atlanta, USA. The testing results of the confirmed/probable cases in the family cluster are summarized in a table. To see the table, please click the link below.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_04_03/en/index.html

Avian Influenza Cases in Birds

Timeline of Outbreaks:

- ▶ **Korea (Rep of)** reports nine further outbreaks in domestic poultry.
- ▶ **Russia** reports one outbreak in domestic poultry.
- ▶ **India** reports two new outbreaks, one in West Bengal, one in Tripura.
- ▶ **China** reports another outbreak in Tibet.
- ▶ **Korea (Rep of)** reports two outbreaks of H5N1, the first since June 2007.
- ▶ **Vietnam** reports 11 additional outbreaks

http://www.oie.int/eng/info_ev/en_AI_factoids_H5N1_Timeline.htm

To see the **Graph Outbreaks (Updated April 15, 2008)**
Please click here: <http://www.oie.int/AVIANINFLUENZA-Asia.htm>

2 New Suspected Cases of Bird Flu Reported

TheKoreanTimes - April 22, 2008

SOUTH KOREA - Two more suspected cases of bird flu have been reported in the southwestern region of the country amid intensifying efforts to prevent further spread of the deadly disease, government officials said Tuesday.

Antibodies Could Lead to Bird Flu Treatment

CTV - April 15, 2008

US - Scientists have developed the first library of avian influenza antibodies, which could lead to a treatment for the potentially fatal flu strain.

Russia Ministry Confirms Bird Flu Outbreak

IndiaTimes - April 14, 2008

MOSCOW, RUSSIA - Russia's agriculture ministry has, according to this story, confirmed a bird flu outbreak in a village in the Far East region of Primorye which was quarantined after scores of chickens died.



Curb Bird Flu with Prevention, Not Cure

The Sydney Morning Herald - April 11, 2008

AUSTRALIA - Indonesia and other nations battling bird flu need to put more effort into conventional disease control rather than relying on a vaccine to stop the virus spreading, an Australian expert has warned.

NATIONAL NEWS

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) -Web-cast Series on Pandemic Influenza



The video will stream in Windows Media format. Please note you will need a Windows media player installed on your computer's browser in order to view the live video stream. If you are unable to view this live stream in the Windows media format you can view the Flash video-on-demand of the event that will be made available April 30th.

Please join us on April 30, 2008 for our final webcast on the State planning and assessment process. The Department of Education will be featured and will address issues relating to the dismissal of students during a pandemic. More details will be available on http://www.pandemicflu.gov/panflu_webinar.html

In our previous issue we reported about the first web seminar (webinar) on the State planning and assessment process, which aired on March 13, this one can be viewed at http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/panflu_webinar1.html

LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

Local News/ Outreach

Activities related to Pandemic Influenza education in San Diego continue with more than 142,556 educational material distributed to various community locations. In addition, a total of 141 presentations have been provided to staff and community residents. San Diego will soon begin trainings for its Ambassador Program, an education and outreach effort to train the general public, through businesses, schools and organizations about how to prepare for an influenza pandemic.



Upcoming Local Events

Table Top Exercise - May 1, 2008

The County of San Diego Pandemic Influenza planners, along with Hospital Partners will be participating in a table top exercise around Pandemic Influenza. The objective of this drill will be to set the stage for scenario of a local health care system taxed to its limits responding to Pandemic Influenza. This type of situation would facilitate the activation of surge plans that would open up as many hospital beds as possible. The drill continues on to create a situation where even the additional beds are full and a declaration of emergency clears the way for the County of San Diego to establish alternative care sites. These sites will be created to take the overflow from hospital surge beds. The drill has the County and health care system working collaboratively the "Surge Plan" and the "Alternative Care Site Plan."

State/ Federal News

Guidance Provided for States to Improve Pandemic Operations Plans April 21, 2008

The *Federal Guidance to Assist States in Improving State-Level Pandemic Influenza Operating Plans* provides a strategic framework to help the 50 States, the District of Columbia (DC), and the five U.S. Territories improve

and maintain their operating plans for responding to and sustaining functionality during an influenza pandemic.

Below is the full guidance, along with supporting and related materials, including a spreadsheet for use by States to submit their Operating Plans.



[Federal Guidance to Assist States \(PDF - 1.54 MB\)](#)

[Principles for Review of Information](#)

[Guidance Resources \(PDF - 117.43 KB\)](#)

[State Panflu Operations Plan Excel Submission \(XLS - 244.5 KB\)](#)

[Webcast Series on Pandemic Influenza](#)



PANDEMIC/ AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

CIDRAP News - April 15, 2008

Japan's health ministry said it was on the verge of approving a plan to administer pre-pandemic vaccine to healthcare workers, which would make it the world's first country to tap its national stockpile for this purpose.

Kishiko Yamaguchi, an official from Japan's health and welfare ministry, said the plan, which awaits approval tomorrow, would allow the vaccination of about 6,000 quarantine officials and healthcare workers by the end of the year, the Associated Press (AP) reported today.

Japan has already approved and stockpiled pandemic vaccines for 10 million people that are based on H5N1 viruses from China, Indonesia, and Vietnam, according to a report today from Reuters. The health ministry said the vaccines were made by the Research Foundation for Microbial Diseases of Osaka University and the Kitasato Institute, the report said.



Masato Tashiro, MD, PhD

In a November 2005 presentation for the World Health Organization (WHO) that summarized clinical study results for Japan's pandemic vaccine, Masato Tashiro,

MD, PhD, with the National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Tokyo, revealed that the project is supported by the government, and the same formulation of the alum-adjuvanted whole-virus vaccine is produced by all of the manufacturers.

Yamaguchi told the AP that if initial tests show that the pre-pandemic vaccine is safe and effective, the ministry would consider vaccinating 10 million more people, including such vital workers as lawmakers, police, and other healthcare workers. Reuters reported that the second vaccination wave would also include those who maintain infrastructure networks such as gas and electricity.

International health officials have been cautious about taking steps toward vaccination in advance of a pandemic, because researchers are uncertain if vaccines that are currently in national stockpiles will offer cross-protection against a future pandemic strain. Also, it's not clear if any adverse events would arise from the use of the vaccine, which makes it difficult to weigh the usefulness of the strategy.

In a May 2007 bulletin, the WHO acknowledged that as pre-pandemic vaccines become available they could be used in poultry workers, healthcare workers, and whole populations. However, the WHO did not recommend that countries undertake the strategy.



Gregory Hartl, a spokesman for the WHO, told the AP that pre-pandemic vaccination is "a big roll of the dice" but said the WHO doesn't oppose countries using the vaccines.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in 2007 praised the development of pre-pandemic vaccines but said it did not support countries using them until the WHO elevates its pandemic phase to 5 or 6 (from the current phase 3), which would indicate significant human-to-human transmission is occurring.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/apr1508vaccine-jw.html>

CIDRAP News - April 9, 2008

A 52-year-old Chinese man probably caught H5N1 avian influenza from his dying son while caring for him in a hospital last December, but others who had close contact with both patients were not infected, Chinese researchers reported this week in *The Lancet*.

The two cases represent another example of probable but limited person-to-person transmission of the Asian H5N1 virus. The article comes on the heels of the World Health Organization's (WHO's) report last week that two brothers who were part of a family cluster of suspected H5N1 cases in Pakistan last fall had the virus.

"We believe that the index case transmitted H5N1 virus to his father while his father cared for him in the hospital," says the *Lancet* report by a mostly Chinese team led by Hua Wang of the Jiangsu Provincial Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in



PANDEMIC/AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

Nanjing, China. The team found no other plausible source of infection for the father and no evidence that the virus spread to anyone else.

Though the 24-year-old son died, his father recovered. The older man's treatment included double-dose oseltamivir (Tamiflu) starting early in the illness and a blood plasma transfusion from a woman who had received an H5N1 vaccine in a clinical trial, suggesting the possibility that vaccine-induced antibodies in the woman's plasma played some role in his recovery.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/apr0908cluster.html>

Voice of America - April 7, 2008

Officials in China have given permission for a Chinese drug maker to begin commercial production of a human vaccine against bird flu after clinical trials showed it was effective. As Naomi Martig reports from Hong Kong, scientists worldwide are trying to find a way to prevent transmission of the virus.

Officials from Sinovac Biotech, which jointly developed the vaccine with China's Center for Disease Control, say two clinical trials showed the vaccine worked.

The development is a promising sign for scientists who have worked for years to develop a vaccine to protect humans from the H5N1 strain of bird flu. The virus has infected nearly 400 people and killed at least 238 worldwide, most of them in Asia.

Experts worry that the H5N1 strain could cause a deadly flu pandemic in humans.



Agricultural officials, volunteers collect poultry to be slaughtered as part of Indonesia's effort to get rid of 'backyard birds'.

So far, most human victims have caught the virus from sick poultry. But there have been some cases of human-to-human exposure.

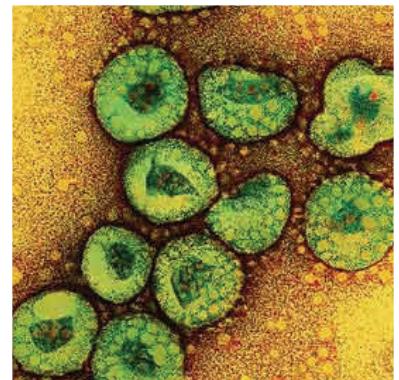
Malik Peiris teaches microbiology at Hong Kong University. He was among the scientists who first identified the virus when it appeared in the city 11 years ago, and was part of a

team that provided the genetic map of the bird flu virus and its mutations.

"The concern of course is that if you give this virus enough time to keep on exposing the human population, sooner or later the virus might learn the trick of transmitting from human to human and then we would have a pandemic and actually quite a nasty pandemic at that," Peiris said.

Peiris says it is crucial to find a vaccine now because there is a strong chance that the infection rate could grow rapidly. He says the history of H5N1 appears similar to that of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which appeared in China in 2002, and spread around the world, killing nearly 800 people. In Hong Kong, 299 people died.

"If you go back to the story of SARS, again it was quite a similar situation as we can see now in retrospect, again it was a virus found in animals and animal markets in southern China and probably over a number of years it was repeatedly infecting humans," Peiris said. "But finally it did adapt and learn how to transmit from human to human and then it led to this global outbreak that we saw."



SARS Virus

Experts now consider the virus to be well entrenched in Southeast Asia and unlikely to be eradicated among poultry for years.

Vietnam also plans to start clinical trials for a human vaccine. A vaccine designed using a current strain of the virus might not offer full protection against other mutated strains in the future. But experts say developing vaccines now could at the very least shorten the time needed to make a more effective vaccine in the case of a pandemic.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-04-07-voa9.cfm>

We're on the Web!

[http://sdpandemicfacts.org/
resources.htm#newsletters](http://sdpandemicfacts.org/resources.htm#newsletters)

RESOURCES

- County Vector Control Program's (888) 551-INFO (4636) for info on how to protect birds, or to report dead birds.
- HHSA's Avian and Pandemic Flu Info Line (619) 515-6900 for info regarding avian and pandemic flu.
- Educational materials are available for public distribution and are also downloadable from the county website: www.sdbirdflu.org or www.sdpandemicflu.org. Click on "Pandemic Flu".
- National Geographic International Edition: www.nationalgeographic.com
- World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int
- Federal Dept. of Health & Human Services: www.pandemicflu.gov
- Federal CDC site: www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic
- State of California: www.dhs.ca.gov
- County of San Diego: www.sdbirdflu.org
- The Poultry Site: www.thepoultrysite.com

Avian/Pandemic Flu Newsletter is published semi-monthly by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services.

Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer

Kay Scavulli, R.N., P.H.N.
Epidemiology/Bioterrorism PHN

Margarita Brooks
Newsletter Research and
Development Coordinator

Please e-mail should you note any written errors or discrepancies or if you have any questions or comments to:
Margarita.Brooks@sdcounty.ca.gov or Kay.Scavulli@sdcounty.ca.gov



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Health and Human Services Agency

